

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6607**

**BILL NUMBER: SB 301**

**NOTE PREPARED: Jan 3, 2015**

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Age for Compulsory School Attendance.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Taylor

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill provides that, beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, a student shall enroll in a kindergarten program not later than the fall term of the school year in which the student becomes five years of age (rather than seven years of age). The bill makes conforming amendments.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2015.

**Explanation of State Expenditures: Summary:** The bill would require mandatory half-day kindergarten for students. The impact on the state would depend on the increase in the public school enrollments and the school formula in effect at that time. The current school formula is repealed on July 1, 2015. Based on 2013 and 2014 enrollments, it is estimated that there were 922 students who did not attend kindergarten in 2013. The impact on the 2015 school formula from increasing the kindergarten enrollment by 922 students would be to increase the state costs to local schools by about \$2.7 M to \$4.9 M, depending if the students attend full-day or half-day kindergarten. Any future impact would also depend on if the amount to be distributed exceeds the state tuition support distribution appropriation for the fiscal year.

**Additional Information:** Currently, kindergarten has to be offered by schools, but parents can choose to enroll a child in half-day or full-day kindergarten or not participate. During the 2013 school year, there were 80,013 students attending public school kindergarten. In the 2014 school year, there were 81,473 students attending first grade in public school, so there were about 922 students that did not attend kindergarten in 2013, but attended first grade in 2014.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** Schools might have some additional costs associated with providing services to an estimated 922 more students who are not currently attending a public kindergarten. For the 2014 school year, there were 80,109 of the 80,553 kindergarten students enrolled in the full-day kindergarten program, so it is estimated that most students are currently in a kindergarten program.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** See *Explanation of State Expenditures*.

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Education.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Local schools.

**Information Sources:** Department of Education databases.

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